

TURN

Teacher Union Reform Network
of AFT and NEA Locals

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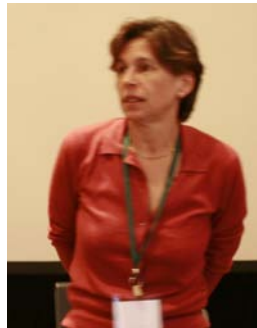
Mary McDonald
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If you'd like to contribute to the
TURN newsletter, please contact
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Re-Framing Accountability

Randi Weingarten

The single-minded focus on standardized tests has dictated an impoverished curriculum and pushed out other evidence of learning. Accountability has become a 'gotcha game' – designed to blame and punish, rather than to build capacity for improvement.



The United Federation of Teachers of NYC has proposed an accountability system that is based upon the following multiple measures:

- **Academic Achievement that includes both absolute academic achievement and student academic progress. These measures would make up two-thirds of the “grade” for school success.**
- **Safety and Order that includes stakeholder surveys, statistics on crimes committed in schools and on-site independent inspections.**
- **Teamwork for Student Achievement includes indicators of strong collaboration among all adults in a school – teachers, parents and administrators**
- **Central Administration Accountability would assess district support, resources and oversight provided to its schools.**

The information for making judgments on these four pillars of this accountability system would come primarily from the following three sources:

- available hard data
- reports of highly trained independent teams who observe and evaluate school on-site
- results of a comprehensive survey of parents, teachers, administrators and students.

For more information: Weingarten, Randi, *Accountability That Works: The Four Pillars of a New System*, Education Week, May 14, 2008

John Grossman

Founding Member of TURN



It is with a heavy heart that we report the passing of a friend and leader,

John Grossman, former president of the Columbus Education Association and a founding member of the Teacher Union Reform Network (TURN).

John's death was completely unexpected. John was a pioneer within the NEA on issues of reform, and not only school reform but of reforms within teacher unions. Columbus was the third district to adopt peer review in the mid-eighties. From alternative compensation to value added to serious standards for performance, John was out front leading the way.

John promoted unity among AFT and NEA unions in the state of Ohio at a time when cooperation, or even conversations were non-existent. John will be greatly missed.

TURN Mission Statement

Teacher unions must provide leadership for the collective voice of their members. Teacher unions have a responsibility to students, their families, and to the broader society. Teacher unions are committed to public education as a vital element of our democracy. What unites these responsibilities is our commitment to help all children learn.

We affirm the union's responsibility to collaborate with other stakeholders in public education and to seek consistently higher levels of student achievement by:

- *Improving continuously the quality of teaching.*
- *Promoting in public education and in the union democratic dynamics, fairness, and due process for all.*
- *Seeking to expand the scope of collective bargaining to include instructional and professional issues.*
- *Improving on an ongoing basis the terms and conditions under which both adults and children work and learn.*



Disruptive Innovation in Education

Curtis Johnson

Curtis Johnson, co-author of *Disrupting Class* provides an overview of their theory and its impact on our educational system. Studies

indicate that the way students learn doesn't always match up with the way students are taught. If we hope to stay academically, economically and technologically competitive, we need to rethink what we believe about teaching and learning and reevaluate our educational system. Clayton Christensen's theories of "disruptive" change using a wide range of real life examples, show how disruptive innovation can circumvent barriers that

"the way students learn doesn't always match up with the way students are taught."

have prevented other attempts at school reform.

For more information, you may wish to read the following book by Clayton Christensen, Michael Horn and Curtis Johnson, *Disrupting Class: How Disruptive Innovation Will Change the Way the World Learns*.



TURN members recognize retiring colleagues Bruce Dickenson, Executive Director of Denver Classroom teachers Association and Kate McKenna, President of Syracuse Teachers Association.

Upcoming TURN Events

Proposed dates and sites for TURN meetings:

- *January 29-31, 2009 The Peabody Hotel in Memphis, TN*
- *May 28-30, 2009 The Tamaya Resort in Bernalillo, NM*

***Great Lakes TURN Meeting:
November 14-15 Cincinnati, Ohio***

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A Contemporary Perspective on Teachers and Schools

Hotep

Hotep, a Morehouse college graduate and a ten-year veteran educator in DeKalb County school system in Georgia, has earned a reputation as a gifted artist, speaker and teacher. His work with young people has focused on The Hustler's 10 Commandments, which he believes will guide his students to create a lifestyle of success independently through the application of determination, hard work, leadership, service and assertiveness.



The Hustler's 10 Commandments encourage young people to become "go getters" – to go after what they want, using the following universal principles:

The Hustler's 10 Commandments:

1. **Your Network Is Your Net Worth.**
2. **Image Is Everything.**
3. **The Early Bird Gets The Worm.**
4. **It's Lonely At The Top.**
5. **Success – Where Opportunity Meets Preparation.**
6. **Business Is Personal.**
7. **Everything Is Negotiable, Everything.**
8. **It's not WHAT you know, or WHO you know...It's Who Knows YOU!**
9. **It Takes Dough, To Make Bread.**
10. **Know & Believe In Thyself.**

For more information, log onto www.skinnyman.com