

National Association for Year-Round Education
Specialists in Time and Learning
www.NAYRE.ORG

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR YEAR-ROUND EDUCATION SET TO REOPEN APRIL 15, 2015

HOLT, MICHIGAN

The National Association for Year-Round Education (NAYRE) is set to reopen April 15, 2015 in Holt, Michigan. Reinstating NAYRE was born from the need for interested stakeholders to have one location to receive accurate and current research regarding year-round education and the balanced school calendar. Previous executive directors Dr. Charles Ballinger and Sam Pepper will join Dr. David Hornak in updating the NAYRE website, serving as consultants and editorial columnists.

Ballinger served as the executive director for 25 years before handing the reins over to Pepper. The organization eventually closed its doors in 2007 with Pepper continuing to add content to the website through 2009. During his research on the balanced school calendar for his doctoral coursework, Hornak discovered that the organization was dormant and established a relationship with Ballinger and Pepper. Serving as the principal of Horizon Elementary (a balanced calendar school) in Holt, MI, Hornak knows firsthand the benefits of the balanced school calendar. "I am thrilled to marry my passion for finding ways to positively influence teaching and learning with my vision to further promote the balanced school calendar," said Hornak.

According to the Congressional Research Service, in the 2011-12 school year nearly 3,700 schools were operating on a balanced school calendar in the United States. Schools that operate on the balanced school calendar limit the longest break for students to 8-weeks or less. Hornak continued, "we are at a tipping point, educational leaders are seeking ways to minimize the loss that occurs annually over the course of a traditional summer intermission. The balanced school calendar mitigates a great deal of loss that occurs over the summer."

Over the next several months Hornak, Ballinger, and Pepper intend to update the website, reestablish relationships, and promote current research. The trio also plans to begin to recognize the innovative schools across the nation operating on the alternative calendar. The website will have a place for schools to register that are operating on a year-round or balanced school calendar. Reopening the doors of NAYRE is the first step to helping interested stakeholders with current research and support when commencing a change to a balanced school calendar.

Dr. Hornak will serve as the current executive director with unmatched support of previous directors Ballinger and Pepper. Hornak continued, "I am honored and thrilled to help reestablish NAYRE!"

For more information visit: NAYRE.org, Facebook: NAYRE, Twitter: @nayre_dh

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