



Collegiate Communiqué #14 Summer Reading and PCMEA Honors June 2018

Greetings from the PMEA Chair of the Council for Teacher Training, Recruitment, and Retention. Here is your monthly *Collegiate Communiqué* geared to higher education music education students and teachers. Past issues are posted on the PMEA website: <http://www.pmea.net/resources/pcmea/>.

This final issue of *Collegiate Communiqué* for 2017-2018 sums up several "summer vacation" reading suggestions and recognizes a few of our outstanding PCMEA chapters and student leaders.

Music-in-a-Minuet

Membership has its advantages! Have you seen these timely articles on the NAFME blog-site?

- "7 Things They Don't Teach Music Education Majors [That You'll Wish They Had!]" <https://nafme.org/7-things-dont-teach-music-education-majors-youll-wish/>
- "Job Hunting is All About Advance Planning and Practice" <https://nafme.org/job-hunting-is-all-about-advance-planning-and-practice/>
- "The Adventure of a Lifetime: My Experience at NAFME's Collegiate Advocacy Summit" <https://nafme.org/experience-nafmes-collegiate-advocacy-summit/>
- Five Reasons You Should Attend the Collegiate Advocacy Summit" <https://nafme.org/5-reasons-attend-collegiate-advocacy-summit/>



2018 Collegiate Recognition Program Awards

On April 24, 2018, NAFME announced the recipients of the 2018 Professional Achievement Awards as well as the Chapter of Excellence Awards. Guess who from Pennsylvania earned the highest degree of recognition? **Harlow Alexander** and the **Marywood University Chapter of NAFME**. We are PA proud! See <https://nafme.org/2018-collegiate-recognition-program-award-recipients/>.

Professional Achievement Award – Harlow Alexander, Marywood University, Scranton, PA

"Harlow is the Marywood NAFME Chapter President and has enjoyed a very successful tenure that has involved her and the organization in advocacy recruitment and service initiatives. In her first year at *Marywood*, she was the recipient of the Sr. Mary Persico Marywood University President's Emerging Leader Award as well as recently being awarded the Departmental Award for Musical Excellence. Harlow has been elected as President-Elect of the Pennsylvania Collegiate MEA and has used this opportunity to advocate for music education in Washington, D.C., at NAFME's Collegiate Advocacy Summit. Harlow's leadership and vision have vaulted Marywood's chapter into a position of higher visibility and a position where they are counted on to be involved in various campus activities, often in support of the university's Core Values. For the past three years Alexander has managed department-sponsored festivals, which attract more than 800 students annually. Harlow is a tireless, dependable, and meticulous worker who always sets a fine example for others to follow."

– F. David Romines, Department Co-Chair, Marywood University.



Chapter of Excellence Award for "Music Program" – Marywood University, Scranton, PA

"The Marywood University Celebrations are three annual music festivals organized by the Marywood University Chapter of NAFME. Each festival requires the officers and members to dedicate an astonishing number of hours towards ensuring the success of each festival. The festivals consist of a String Celebration for seventh through twelfth grade students, a Junior Wind Band Celebration for seventh through ninth grade students, and a Senior Wind Band Celebration for tenth through twelfth grade students. The chapter's 27 music education majors oversee all three celebrations. The three festivals hosted during 2017 have been Marywood's most successful events."

– Harlow Alexander, President, Marywood University Collegiate NAFME Chapter

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"Advice for Prospective Music Teachers"



One of the reasons you should be "active" on NAFME

Amplify, the online community discussion platform, are "gems" like the following submitted by someone who has been in the position to hire future prospects. Edwin Newell, current Band Director at Hackett MS and Arbor Hill ES, Albany NY, provided the following tips to help you "land that first job!"

1. Figure out what the online application process is for the district you wish to apply to. Fill in ALL of the info (yes, all!) Make a generic cover letter (1 page), a basic outline of the job you hope to get with just a bit about yourself. Upload your resumé (2 pages max). Find all the jobs you're qualified for and hit "Apply" for all of them. Remember you miss 100% of the jobs you don't apply for. Believe it or not, we've been told by staff members "You gotta hire my friend, he wants a job so bad!" and their application doesn't show up. They didn't get the job, sorry.
2. Once a potential employer sees your app and is interested, assume they're going to Google you. Clean up your Facebook feed for gosh sakes! Yes, schools still expect you to have a squeaky clean online presence. Have an active LinkedIn account, again with some positive people and associations linked. For music teachers, if I can see a picture of you in performance mode, that's a plus. A YouTube clip of an exceptional performance is also a plus. If you have absolutely no online presence and you're under 30, that's a minus for me.
3. If you're hesitant to hit "Apply" because you're not sure where/what the job entails, don't be too shy to reach out. The HR department of a district our size will not have time to discuss particulars, but they can reaffirm the process for applying. (Do they want a paper resumé? Is the link to the job not working? Has the posting closed? etc.) If you can figure out the head of the department you wish to apply to, send an email, but don't be pushy. (If you can't figure this out, you're not trying, sorry. Do some homework on the District!) Ask if they can tell you any details, and if they are looking for any skill set in particular. (e.g., woodwind specialist, piano skills a must, etc.) Be polite and professional.
4. About that cover letter: One page please. (I have a 3-pager in the latest batch!) For your generic one, "To Whom It May Concern" is fine. If you address it to a particular district, make sure you're sending it to the right district! I've gotten several that have headings that are several years old and addressed to someone else. This demonstrates a certain laziness that I'm not sure I'm OK with. Keep it simple, but use it to highlight any skill-set you might feel is attractive. (Marching band? Coaching? Worked in a recording studio?) Another personal item that you might want to share is why you want the job in my district. This is especially true if your address is 100+ miles away, because schools do not pay relocation costs! "Want to be closer to family" is always a good one. "Restraining order forces me to move" not so much.
5. Make sure your best, reachable phone number (probably your cell) is on everything, and maybe a home # (mom and dad?) as a backup number. Our HR dept. is notorious for calling candidates at 2PM Friday for Monday AM interviews. If you miss the call, check your voicemail. Oh, and by the way, make sure your voicemail is set up. Make sure you also include a valid email address that you check often! [Permission was granted by Newell to reprint this *Amplify* posting.]

Social Media – Good or Bad for the Profession?

What about social media and the "tools of technology" for music education? Rounding-out the five-part series on Ethics for Music Educators, "**Social Media – Boon or Nemesis**" was recently posted at <https://paulkfoxusc.wordpress.com/2018/04/29/social-media-boon-or-nemesis/>. To see all five articles in reverse chronological order, go to <https://paulkfoxusc.wordpress.com/category/ethics/>.

The new blog-post is about the pros, the cons, and hints for exercising good judgment in the use of media. People from the "baby-boomer generation" are a little reticent about most forms of social media and emerging technology. When they were first introduced in 2003-2004, most school administrators told teachers to "stay away" from MySpace, Facebook, and using other online media in communications with students. This trend may be changing a little, since private (password-protected) groups can be set-up, privacy settings can be enforced (if you are vigilant), and other teacher-friendly apps like Blackboard and Blended Schools have been developed and recommended for use by all teachers.



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PMEA Council for Teacher Training, Recruitment, and Retention

"Supporting the life cycle of a music educator..."

Paul K. Fox, Chair • Teri Myers, Co-Chair

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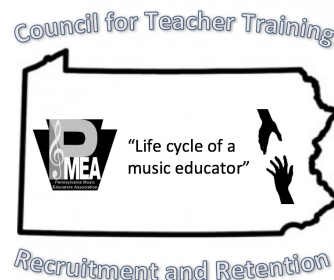
Talk about pre-service professional *engagement!*

Check out these statistics for "putting their money where their mouths are!" Congratulations and BRAVOS go to the following PCMEA chapters and their collegiate members for attending the **PMEA Spring 2018 Conference** in Lancaster, PA. You are "the future of the profession," and your participation and contributions are noticed and much appreciated. As Chair of the **Council for Teacher Training, Recruitment, and Retention**, I want to especially applaud the efforts of the schools who had among the highest percentage of music education majors in attendance. This is remarkable considering that many of you incurred personal expenses, took time off from classes, and traveled many miles and hours from the far reaches of PA!

The "top-three" registration numbers came from **Millersville University** (five miles to the conference), **Susquehanna University** (86 miles), and **Slippery Rock University** (285 miles), with SRU travelling the farthest and having to spend at least four-and-a-half hours on a bus! That is true demonstration of dedication to professional development!

Bloomsburg University 10
Bucknell University 7
Carnegie-Mellon University 2
Duquesne University 35
Eastman School of Music 1
Edinboro University 4
Elizabethtown College 7
Gettysburg College 16
Grove City College 14
Immaculata University 5
Indiana University of Pennsylvania 29
Kutztown University 5
Lancaster Bible College 4
Lebanon Valley College 7
Lycoming College 1

Mansfield University 7
Marywood University 16
Mercyhurst University 3
Messiah College 34
Millersville University 51
Moravian College 8
Pennsylvania State University 34
Seton Hill University 15
Slippery Rock University 41
Susquehanna University 46
Temple University 32
University of Valley Forge 1
West Chester University 15
Westminster College 17
York College of PA 3



Messiah College Horn Quartet at PMEA Conference



Lebanon Valley College Concert Choir warmup in Lancaster

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