



**Consortium members**

*Our Lady of the Lake University  
Texas A&M University-Commerce  
Texas A&M University-San Antonio*

**FUTURISTIC LEADERSHIP: VISION, RISK & CHANGE**

**October 17-19, 2013**

**Executive Summary**



This fall's CEPA Leadership Consortium Conference again proved to be a most enjoyable and gratifying event. The theme was *Futuristic Leadership: Vision, Risk & Change* and the El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel in San Antonio, Texas provided a beautiful setting.

The flagship universities co-hosting this year's event were Our Lady of the Lake University and Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Delegates attending the conference represented distinguished campuses from California to Indiana and throughout Texas. Students, leaders and visionaries assembled to celebrate learning and re-connect themselves to scholarship excellence.

The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between these campuses and CEPA was the highlight of the conference. It establishes an important link between major institutions of higher learning and a Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation. The CEPA Leadership Consortium serves as a model for educating and preparing our next generation of leaders. We applaud these universities for spearheading leadership opportunities for all thinkers in the southwest region of the U.S. Both presidents, Dr. Maria Hernandez Ferrier, and Sister Jane Ann Slater, emphasized that in order to flourish as individuals as well as a global society, we must foster the uniqueness and interests of every person while providing them with a broad, universal education. The Proclamation from the City of San Antonio underscored this theme. The Honorable Joe Farias from the Texas House of Representatives was an honored guest and served as an observer of the signing.

In our increasingly globalized society, the conference aimed to encourage, mentor and support new and upcoming leaders in diverse fields of interest. Everyone saw first-hand the tremendous interest in leadership--especially the need to regain confidence in education and our public officials. Emphasis was placed on improving our future through collaboration, mentoring, and maintaining a focus on humanistic values and ethical practices.

The Friday evening dinner featured a much-anticipated presentation by Dr. Mary Landon Darden, (Concordia University, San Antonio), author of the best-seller *Beyond 2020*:

*Envisioning the Future of Universities in America.* Her presentation painted a picture of what lies ahead and outlined the steps institutions can take to prepare themselves for the future.

Three thought-provoking panels highlighted the leadership traits needed in today's uncertain, complex and ambiguous world and reinforced the need for futuristic leadership. The panels were: Challenges to leadership in higher education ~ Dr. Robert Bisking (OLLU), Dr. Jo-Carol Fabianke (Alamo Colleges), Dr. Brent Snow (TAMU-SA), and moderator Dr. Glenda Ballard (TAMUT); Dean's Panel ~ Dr. Michael Laney (OLLU), Dr. Betty Merchant (UTSA), Dr. Eric Lopez (TAMU-SA) and moderator Dr. Luz Mary Rincon (TAMUT); and Organizational Leadership with Dr. Kristin Kew (NMSU), Dr. Terry McDaniel (Indiana State), Josephine Sosa-Fey (TAMU-SA) and moderator Dr. Bobbie Jo Monahan (Indiana State). After each of the sessions, delegates were enthusiastic about meeting the panelists and following up on questions.

This year's conference was also unique in that it included a Military, Veterans and Families Educational Summit. Students' visionary paradigms were also displayed at the on-going poster session. Another notable conference enhancement was the inclusion of undergraduate students. McNair Scholars from Our Lady of the Lake University and students from the Business Scholars Program at the University of Texas at San Antonio served as CEPA Ambassadors throughout the entire event.

Participants had positive reactions to the conference. Dr. Robert Bisking sent his congratulations to all attendees. He is excited to be part of the consortium and looks forward to collaborating with everyone to encourage other universities to join us in developing the leaders of tomorrow. Sister Jane Ann Slater stated "I am so pleased to have been a part of the signing ceremony and will collaborate with CEPA to advance its mission."



Vidya Ananthanarayanan, doctoral student at University of the Incarnate Word, served as Conference Site Coordinator. With elegance and a confident approach she demonstrated the friendship generated among the delegates who served as moderators for their fellow scholars during the breakout sessions. Laurie Turner, doctoral student at Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi, also played a vital role in conference planning and implementation. Special thanks to everyone who worked as volunteers. While serving as Master of Ceremonies, Vidya left us with this positive message: "As a delegate at this year's conference you are encouraged to continue to share your ideas on leadership and engage other thinkers at our next conference, CEPA 2014, San Antonio, October 9-11<sup>th</sup>, where creative ideas will again flourish."

*Conference Program:* [http://www.cepa2000.org/cepa\\_program\\_2013\\_final\\_b.pdf](http://www.cepa2000.org/cepa_program_2013_final_b.pdf)



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