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Patrick F. Bassett, Presenter at the 2006 Global Education Summit



Patrick F. Bassett

Patrick F. Bassett became the president of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) in August 2001. NAIS is a voluntary membership organization for more than 1,200 independent (private) schools and associations of schools in the U.S. and abroad.

Bassett began his career in independent schools in 1970 as an English teacher and lacrosse coach at Woodberry Forrest School (Virginia), an all boys boarding school. In 1980, he became headmaster of an all-girls school, Stuart Hall (Virginia), where he remained until 1989. From 1981 to 1989, Bassett served on the Executive Committee of the Virginia Association of Independent Schools (VAIS), and he was president from 1988-1989. From 1985 to 1989, he served on the board of directors of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS). He was named a Kellogg National Leadership Fellow from 1986-1989. Bassett became the head of Pomfret School (Connecticut), a coed, boarding-day high school, in 1989.

From 1993 to 2001, Bassett was the president of the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS). ISACS provides accreditation, consultations, professional development events, and statistics-gathering and-reporting for more than 200 independent schools in the 15 states of the Midwest. He also served on the board of directors of The Multicultural Alliance (1994-2000), and he has served on the board of The Council for Spiritual and Ethical Education (CSEE) since 1996 and the board and Executive Committee of CAPE, the Council for American Private Education, since 2001. In March 2000, Bassett was honored by The Klingenstein Center of Teachers College (Columbia University) with the Educational Leadership Award. In 2001, he was invited by the president of Teachers College to join the Advisory Board of The Klingenstein Center, Teachers College, Columbia University.

Bassett is the author of numerous book chapters and articles, including several commentary pieces in *Education Week*, entitled "The End of Independent Schools" (March 13, 1996) and "Why Good Schools Are Countercultural" (February 6, 2002), and "Testing, Accountability, and Independence" (August 19, 2002) and "Searching for Great Teachers" (February 26, 2003). He has also contributed chapters and served as co-editor for *Looking Ahead: Independent School Issues and Answers*,

Avocus Books 1994 (1st Edition) and 2004 (2nd Edition).

Patrick Bassett is a Phi Beta Kappa, magna cum laude graduate of Williams College (Massachusetts). He also holds a master's degree from Northwestern University (Illinois). He and his wife, Barbara, have two grown daughters and two grandchildren.

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