



## Common Core Standards: Challenges and Opportunities Biographical Information for Panelists and Presenters

### **Robert Antonucci**

Dr. Robert V. Antonucci, who for decades has held leadership posts in all levels of education, has served as President of Fitchburg State College since June of 2003. President Antonucci serves on a variety of non-profit and corporate boards and has also chaired the New England Association of Schools and Colleges strategic planning initiative. He is a former member of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities' (AASCU) Committee on Economic and Workforce Development. In addition, he serves on the Christa McAuliffe Presidential Selection Committee, which annually presents awards for outstanding programs in teacher education at AASCU institutions. Governor Deval Patrick appointed him to co-chair the Higher Education Task Force and to serve as a member of the Pre-K through 12 Task Force, as well as several other statewide committees. As Education Commissioner in the 1990s, President Antonucci played a key role in the passage and enactment of the state's historic Education Reform Act of 1993, a landmark law now seen as a national model. Managing a staff of 470 and a budget of \$3.4 billion, he fundamentally reformed the state's education finance system, school governance, curriculum development and charter schools.

### **Jim Patterson**

Jim Patterson is a Senior Program Development Associate in language arts with ACT, Inc., in Iowa City, Iowa, where he has worked since 1996. He is the lead content specialist for the English and reading portions of the EXPLORE, PLAN, and ACT tests and has worked on the development of ACT's College Readiness Standards and various projects associated with text complexity. Prior to coming to ACT, Mr. Patterson taught English and journalism to students in grades 7-12, and he also taught briefly at the college level in 2005. He has a bachelor of journalism degree, magna cum laude, from the University of Missouri-Columbia and a master of arts in teaching degree from the University of Iowa; he is presently working on a PhD in education at Iowa. For most of the last two years, Jim has been involved in the development of the College and Career Readiness Standards in Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening and (as one of the lead writers) the Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts & Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects, both for CCSSO and NGA.

### **Robert Richardson**

Rob Richardson has been the Education Manager for Intel Massachusetts since 2001. He provides strategic direction to Intel's investments in K-12 schools and colleges to help them improve programs in math, science, and engineering, particularly for women and under-represented minorities. Mr. Richardson has been an education administrator in several capacities: the founding President of the French River Education Center in Oxford, MA, Associate Director of the Center for Educational Leadership and Technology and Sr. Consultant with Future Management Systems. Two programs he created earned US Presidential citations for innovative partnerships with industry and both were designated as national

models by the US Department of Education. Additional experience includes seven years in various capacities at Digital Equipment Corporation's Software Supply Business. Mr. Richardson is Chairperson for the Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education (MBAE), Chair of the Executive Committee for the Massachusetts State Science and Engineering Fair, and has served on the Governor's MA 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills Task Force. He earned a BA from Tufts University and a master's degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

### **Gene Wilhoit**

Gene Wilhoit assumed his role as Executive Director of the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) in November of 2006 having spent his entire professional career serving education at the local, state, and national levels. Mr. Wilhoit began his career as a social studies teacher in Ohio and Indiana. He served as a Program Director in the Indiana Department of Education, an administrator in Kanawha County West Virginia, and a special assistant in the U.S. Department of Education before assuming the position of Executive Director of the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE), which he held 1986–1993. From 1994 to 2006, Mr. Wilhoit led two state education agencies, as Director of the Arkansas Department of Education and as Deputy Commissioner and Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Education. In those positions, he shepherded finance reform, led equity initiatives, designed and implemented assessment and accountability systems, advanced nationally recognized preschool and technology programs, and reorganized state agencies to focus on service and support. Mr. Wilhoit has also studied education administration at West Virginia College of Graduate Studies. He is a member of numerous education organizations, has served on national and state commissions, and has written and spoken on a variety of education issues.

### **Jason Zimba**

Dr. Jason Zimba graduated *summa cum laude* and with highest research honors from Williams College with a double major in mathematics and astrophysics. He attended the University of Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar and studied under Roger Penrose, earning an M.Sc. by research in mathematics. While a graduate student at the University of California at Berkeley, Dr. Zimba was Lead Curriculum Developer for an NSF-sponsored project to reform introductory physics courses; this project received the University's Innovations in Education Award in 1999. Dr. Zimba received his Ph.D. in mathematical physics from Berkeley in 2001. Meanwhile, in early 2000, he co-founded The Grow Network (now a McGraw-Hill Education company), a K-12 education technology company that helps large school systems use assessment to inform instruction. As Grow's Vice President for Education and Product Development, he was responsible for standards alignment, curriculum design, product development, educational strategy, and psychometrics, working closely with nonprofit organizations, businesses, and school leaders at the local and state levels. In 2003 he taught at Grinnell College as a visiting Assistant Professor of Physics. In 2004 he moved to Bennington College, where he is now a Faculty Member in Physics and Mathematics and Faculty Member in the Center for the Advancement of Public Action. Dr. Zimba is also a Cofounder of Student Achievement Partners, an organization that designs K-12 education policy to improve student achievement. In this capacity Jason served as a member of the writing team for the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics ([www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org)). In 2006 he received the Majorana Prize in theoretical physics, and he is the author of *Force and Motion: An Illustrated Guide to Newton's Laws* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009).