February 19, 2015

TO: NAGC Board of Directors
FROM: Brian Housand
RE: New Business Item: NAGC Historian

"Study the past if you would define the future."
-Confucius

With the hiring of a new executive director, NAGC embarks on a new chapter in its history. To boldly and wisely go into the future, preserving a sense of history of the organization is an important step. While there are many individuals and groups that are interested in and dedicated to the history of NAGC and gifted education, I am wondering if it is worthy of exploring the possibility of creating a position of NAGC HISTORIAN.


In 2010, I created a presentation for my Introduction to Gifted Education course using the information from the NAGC Brief History website. I uploaded to Slideshare (http://www.slideshare.net/brianhousand/history-of-gifted-education). This presentation has been viewed over 12,000 times. This would seem to indicate that there is at least some interest in the topic.


As I have thought through this and had some initial conversations with a few others, many questions and issues to consider have risen.

- Is this part of the mission and purpose of the Conceptual Foundations Network?
- Is this part of the work of the Legacy Series?
- Would this be a NEW workgroup or task force?
- Would this be an individual or is this a group effort?
- If this is an individual, then how is this decided on?
- Is it an elected position?
- Is this an appointed position? If so, by whom?
- How long would the term be? How long is too long? How long is too short?
- What is the purpose of the historian?
- What projects would the historian be involved?

While I do not have answers to any of these questions, I do think that exploring the idea of creating a position to clearly and systematically preserve the history of this organization is something that would be of value and interest to a great number of people in the field.

One possible project might be to focus on updating Wikipedia with entries related to NAGC, Gifted and Talented Education, and contributors to the field. Regardless of what form the projects take place, it is of vital importance to preserve the legacy of NAGC for future generations.