



Oct. 8, 2015

From Where I Sit

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Wherever you are right now, for just one moment, imagine clear blue skies, 80 degrees, gorgeous mountains, saguaro cactus, beautiful sunsets, excellent food and friendly people. In just over a month you will be in this place, what we Phoenixians commonly refer to as the Valley of the Sun. Most importantly, it's the location for the [NAGC 62nd Annual Convention](#), Nov. 12-15.



Phoenix has so much to offer, so come early and stay late!

If you want to see gifted education in action, please participate in an [Offsite Educational Program](#) on Thursday, Nov. 12. Many months ago the Arizona Local Arrangements Committee began the process of choosing the offsite programs. You may choose from these sites: [Herberger Young Scholars Academy at Arizona State University](#), [ASPIRE Academy](#), [Arizona Opera](#) and the [Musical Instrument Museum](#). Each site has a developed an event specifically designed for NAGC conference attendees.

At the Herberger Young Scholars Academy, you will see effective models for meeting the needs of highly gifted students on a university campus. The ASPIRE Academy is a program for gifted middle school students, and while there you will discover how they design and build a gifted program using problem-based learning. The Arizona Opera's mission, "to elevate the transformative power of storytelling through music," will show how to unlock the creative potential of gifted students. The Musical Instrument Museum, the world's only global musical instrument museum, is a fantastic, hands-on experience. I have been there many times and still haven't experienced it all!

I have attended the NAGC Convention since 1989 and have been on many offsite visits, formerly known as Action Labs. I am a kinesthetic learner; to be able to interact with students, teachers, parents and administrators adds great value to my overall conference experience. The one that had the most impact on my career was during the 2009 Convention in Atlanta, when I had the opportunity to see the Da Vinci Academy in action. At each juncture, there was a middle school student, in costume, demonstrating the principles of their school. They had complete autonomy and obvious pride in the school. As an administrator visiting the school, I was most interested in seeing how this school operated with a non-traditional leadership structure. I took away

many ideas and put them into action when a new opportunity was presented to me in 2010. I felt more confident in developing a new school having had the experience and resources provided by this Offsite Educational Program.

Welcome to Arizona and to the Valley of the Sun. We are so excited about NAGC coming to the southwest. We know you will enjoy the expansive beauty and diverse culture of the Arizona.

[Register today](#). **The registration for Offsite Educational Programs closes on Monday, October 12.** If you've already registered for the Convention and wish to add one of these pre-convention programs, [use this PDF](#), or call NAGC at 202/785-4268.

Oh, and be sure to bring your flip-flops. Yes, you can wear them year round. But for those of us who live in Phoenix, we will be wearing jackets and scarves, as 80 degrees is a bit chilly for us!