Member Education and Planning for the Vote on Consolidation

Most of my tenure as NASPA president has been consumed with the planning, communication, coordinating, and writing that is heading us toward the vote on consolidation from March 15-April 15. So much has happened this year! And so much work has been committed on the part of so many people. While *Forum* and *Leadership Exchange* columns have been written, the national conference planned, leadership appointments made, and new professional development implemented, the bulk of my efforts this year has concentrated on consolidation. It seems appropriate to include highlights here:

7/10 Historic first joint meeting of the NASPA and ACPA Boards to consider the work of the sub-committees writing for the Proposal for Consolidation
10-12/10 Writing the vision and values statements for the New Association and compiling and editing sub-committee reports for the Proposal with members of the Consolidation Steering Team
11/10 Conducting the legal and financial due diligence for ACPA
Visiting and making presentations at the regional conferences
12/10 Board meeting which resulted in the resolution charging the Consolidation Steering Team to continue further work, due diligence and membership education leading to the vote for consolidation
1 -3/11 Continued work by and with the Proposal sub-committees leading to the Addendum
2/11 Publication of the Voting Guide

Throughout this work and the conversations that have sometimes been difficult, I have appreciated the commitment and passion of the members of the Board of Directors. The Board has worked hard to represent their constituencies well, as we have managed together a challenging process that we worked to keep as balanced and open as possible. While there are different perspectives on the most promising structure and organization for the future of our professional association, it is evident that the values and experiences that have been nurtured through NASPA have united us in the wish to ensure the continued development of a first-rate professional association. Whichever way the vote lands us, I feel proud of what the Board has done to offer a fair vote to the membership in a process that had no roadmap, no blueprint, and that we had to make up together as we went along. The commitment to fairness, thoroughness, rationality, and inclusiveness has been evident throughout. I am grateful for lessons I have learned along the way about courage, openness, persistence, communication, making assumptions and values explicit, teamwork, staying engaged in the face of adversity, and stamina.