

## Patrick F. Bassett

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### References

*"...almost impossible to come away  
from a conversation (with Pat)  
without having something new to  
think about or a new way of  
looking at an issue..."*

Lucinda Lee Katz,  
Head, Marin Country Day  
School (CA)

*"...transformed NAIS and led  
schools to places they did not know  
they wanted or needed to go. ..."*

Bernie Noe, Head, Lakeside  
School (WA)

*"...indefatigable in his travels,  
encyclopedic in his knowledge,  
profound in his identification of  
trends..."*

Bruce Shaw, Former NAIS  
Board Chair & Head, Shady  
Hill School (MA).

### Professional Profile

Formerly an independent school teacher, adjunct college professor, independent school head, and association president, and now founder and president of Heads Up Educational Consulting, LLC, serving as consultant and strategist for schools and other non-profits in...

- Strategic Planning
- Operational audits
- Executive Searches & Coaching
- Governance Training
- Change Agency for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools

### Education and Honors

#### Bachelor of Arts, English, 1970

Williams College, Williamstown, MA  
Phi Beta Kappa, Magna Cum Laude, Lacrosse Team Captain

#### Masters of Arts, Film Studies, 1973

Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

#### Kellogg National Leadership Fellow

Community Leadership Development Program, 1986-1989

#### Klingenstein Center, Teachers College, Columbia University

Educational Leadership Award, 2000

#### Global Achievement Awards

National Association of Independent Schools-NAIS, 2013  
European Council of Independent Schools-ECSIS, 2010  
Near East Asia Council of Overseas Schools-NESA, 2009

#### National Business Officers Association-NBOA

Outstanding Support of Independent Schools Award, 2013

#### Council for the Advancement & Support of Education

Golden Apple Award, 2013

### Career Experience

- Teacher & Administrator, Woodberry Forest School (VA), 1970-1980
- Headmaster, Stuart Hall (VA), 1980-1989
- Headmaster, Pomfret School (CT), 1989-1993
- President, ISACS (Independent Schools Association of the Central States), 1993-2001
- President, NAIS (National Association of Independent Schools), 2001-2013
- President & Senior Consultant, Heads Up Educational Consulting, 2013-present

*“...leadership that was clear,  
fertile, cutting edge and aggressive,  
always spiked with good humor  
and never without moral and  
ethical purpose....”*

Bruce Stewart, Former Head,  
Sidwell Friends School (DC)

*“...Pat has playfully, courageously,  
intelligently and caringly led all of  
us forward, our schools and  
ourselves, a perfect leader for our  
disruptive times...”*

Andrew Watson, Head,  
Albuquerque Academy (NM)

*“...thoughtful, visionary, and  
mission-driven leadership that has  
served to expand our thinking  
about education and the role  
private schools play in improving  
outcomes for all  
students...illustrating the NAIS  
theme of the public purpose of  
private education ....”*

Maureen Dowling, Director,  
ONE, U.S. Dept. of  
Education

## **Board Experience**

- The National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) Board, 1985-1989
- The Multicultural Alliance , 1994-2000
- The Council for Spiritual and Ethical Education (CSEE) Board, 1996-2013
- The Council for the American Private Education (CAPE), 2001-2013
- The Williams College Board & Executive Committee (2008 – present)
- The National Network of Schools in Partnership (2013 – present)
- United Educators Insurance Company (2013 – present)
- Noodle (2013 – present)
- Finalsite (2013 – present)
- Woodberry Forest School (VA) (2013 – present)
- The Benedict Foundation (2013 – present)

## **Publications & Videos**

- **Education Week**

03/13/96 [The End of Independent Schools](#)

A Swiftian satire on the subversive factors confronting schools.

02/06/02 [Why Good Schools Are Countercultural](#)

Patrick F. Bassett claims that if we are unhappy with the character of American culture as reflected in its schools, we should look to schools that are countercultural and encourage their growth.

06/19/02 [Testing, Accountability, and Independence](#)

Homogenizing the American education system with high-stakes tests and state-mandated curricula will not rescue all the failing schools, says Patrick F. Bassett, but it could destroy the models of excellence that already exist.

02/26/03 [Searching for Great Teachers](#)

What does good teaching look like? The film "The Emperor's Club" provides one answer, says former teacher and headmaster Patrick F. Bassett.

02/04/04 [From Good to Great Schools](#)

How to make good schools into great schools? Measures beyond their "adequate yearly progress" are needed, writes Patrick F. Bassett.

03/16/05 [Seven Surprises for School Leaders](#)

As defined by Harvard, the challenges of business leadership closely resemble those faced by school leaders, writes Patrick F. Bassett, president of the National Association of Independent Schools.

02/20/08 [What the Finns Know Shouldn't Surprise Us \(But Does\)](#)

Patrick F. Bassett outlines what we could learn from their success.

07/15/09 [Building Character in Crisis](#)

"Only as we teach integrity will kids be ready for democracy," write Patrick F. Bassett, Paul D. Houston, and Rushworth M. Kidder.

- **The Bassett Blog:** for scores of blogs on various topics, go to [www.nais.org](http://www.nais.org) and search for "Bassett Blog 2013," "Bassett Blog 2012," etc. back to "Bassett Blog 2005"
- **Independent School** magazine's [digitally archived issues](#) 2008 – 2013 (click Read More & scroll to "Independent Perspective" for the president's column)
- **You Tube**
  - Bassett Tedx Talk on Schools of the Future: [The Big Shifts](#) (27 minutes)
  - Insight TV Interview on [Independent Schools](#) (43 minutes)
  - Trustee U: Short Takes on Leadership (2 – 5 minutes each):  
[God on a Good Day](#); [Value-Added Governance](#); [A Bright Red Line](#)  
[What Keeps Me Up at Night](#); [2 Minutes on Leadership](#); [Sustainability](#)