



## A Letter from our Directors....

Dear friends and colleagues,

We are so grateful for springtime in Colorado—daily we are inspired by the beauty of the daffodils and tulips, the flowering trees, the songs of meadowlarks. We hope that this spirit of rejuvenation and regeneration is infusing your lives as well.

We continue to honor the life and ongoing work of our founder [Rachael Kessler](#), who died January 27th, 2010. We miss her deeply and feel her presence daily in our work. Over the past years, Rachael worked closely with our staff and board to develop a comprehensive “Living Legacy” plan for PassageWorks. Our vision for the evolution of the Institute has included broadening our leadership team, developing a strong faculty, and collaborating with organizational partners also dedicated to transforming education from the inside out. PassageWorks continues to include many talented col-

leagues in the development, refinement, and implementation of our model, so that this body of work will be informed by a dedicated community of practitioners. Daily, we are inspired by the opportunities to partner with educators to create schools that value human and academic development and honor and cultivate the inner lives of students and teachers.

We recently completed our April Foundation Course, with 16 educators from Lexington, Nebraska and four educators from various sites in Colorado. Their stories and experiences remind us how passionate teachers are about their students and how consistently they devote themselves to creating communities that open and engage the hearts and minds of students. Again and again we see that cultivating safe, dynamic places for teachers to explore their teaching practice surfaces creative solutions to complex challenges. Powerful, authen-

tic, systems-wide transformation often begins here—in circles of educators who trust and support one another, care deeply about their students, and are committed to engaging in school-wide culture change.

Finally, we want to thank everyone for the many wonderful donations that we have received to support the “Living Legacy Projects”.

We hope you all have a wonderful spring. Please read on for more news of the Institute.

Warm wishes,

Mark Wilding & Laura Weaver



## Spring & Summer 2010 Courses

### Spring Foundation Course

Our Spring Foundation Course was held April 9 - 11, 2010 in Boulder, CO. The three-day workshop was facilitated by PWI Faculty and Lead Trainers John McCluskey and Laura Weaver. The course included 20 educators.

Thank you [Friends' School](#) for hosting the course!

### Teaching Presence

Dates: June 11-13, 2010 (Fri 5pm-9pm, Sat 9am-8pm, Sun 9am-4pm)

Location: Alexander Dawson School, Boulder, CO

Facilitators: Laura Weaver, Batya Greenwald and John McCluskey

Credit: 22 CEUs [Click here to register for either June course by May 15th for a \\$50 discount!](#)

### The Foundation Course

Dates: June 24-27, 2010 (Fri 5pm-9pm, Sat 9am-8pm, Sun 9am-4pm)

Location: Alexander Dawson School, Boulder, CO

Facilitators: Carrie Simpson and Ari Gerzon-Kessler

Credit: One (1) graduate credit from CSU or 22 CEUs

## 2009/10 New School Projects

### DC Oakes, Colorado

Faculty members John McCluskey and Laura Weaver teamed with Jefferson County School DC Oakes to offer their faculty a three-module professional development series in November of 2009 and January and April of 2010.

### Alexander Dawson School, Colorado

Mark Wilding and Laura Weaver offered a peer leadership training for Dawson students in Fall 2009. Laura Weaver continues to consult with Dawson faculty members as they adapt the Journey Into High School curriculum for their once a month advisory program.

### Lexington High School, Lexington, Nebraska 2010 - 2011



Lexington High School teachers at the April Foundation Course

PassageWorks is partnering with educators at a high school in Lexington, Nebraska to create a full-year 9th grade advisory course entitled "Foundations of Leadership." This course will utilize PassageWorks core practices and principles and will integrate our *Journey into High School* curriculum with other content. The project kicked off with 16 faculty members attending our spring Foundation Course in Boulder. A few weeks later, John McCluskey and Laura Weaver traveled to Lexington to lead an all staff introductory workshop. We had a wonderful experience with the Lexington team and look forward to working together throughout the 2010-2011 school year and beyond. This project will serve approximately 200 students. This year the Lexington High School 9th grade class is 79% Hispanic, 14% White, 4% African or African American, and 3% other ethnicities. Additionally, 10% of Lexington 9th grade students are English Language Learners and 80% receive free and reduced lunch.

### Other School Projects

Please visit our website to see a list of [Schools We Serve](#).

## Living Legacy Projects

The "Living Legacy" of PassageWorks includes the past 25 years of school-based work by Rachael Kessler and colleagues along with our ongoing programs and projects. The "[Living Legacy Projects](#)" (LLP) are the current initiatives of this evolving body of collaborative work. These initiatives include the: **Rachael Kessler Archive Project; Kindergarten Project; [Soul of Education 10th Anniversary Project](#); **Principles and Practices Project; School Project and Scholarship Fund; the Collaboration Project; and the Professional Development Project.** Our thanks to our many friends for the wonderful donations that we have received to support the "Living Legacy Projects" in honor of Rachael. Visit the [Living Legacy Projects](#) page for more information.**

## Collaboration with the Center for Courage and Renewal

PassageWorks is partnering with the [Center for Courage and Renewal](#) (Parker Palmer's work) to develop a co-creative event exploring "Teaching from the Inside Out." The first event is scheduled for the evening of Friday, October 1, 2010 and will be followed by a two-day PassageWorks Teaching Presence Course. Seating will be very limited, so be sure to watch our [Courses & Events](#) page for details. (Details of the event TBA in June).

## Ari Gerzon-Kessler Joins the PassageWorks Board



The board and staff of PassageWorks are pleased to announce that Ari Gerzon-Kessler has accepted our invitation to join the board of of PassageWorks. Ari brings a wealth of knowledge and experience. He is the vice principal at Glacier Peak and

Prairie Hills, two elementary schools in Thornton, Colorado. As a bilingual teacher for seven years, Ari drew upon PassageWorks and other social and emotional learning principles and practices to foster high levels of student growth and achievement. He has an MA in Instruction and Curriculum from the University of Colorado and has published articles in a variety of education magazines.



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## Kindergarten Transitions Project



Kindergarten teachers and faculty members Carrie Simpson and Batya Greenwald are leading the effort to refine our Kindergarten curriculum and consult with schools implementing this program in 2009 - 2011. Schools currently engaged in this program include Boulder Community School of Integrated Studies, Think College Now in Oakland, and Doyle Elementary in East Prairie, Missouri. Material about PWI's kindergarten transitions program will be included in an upcoming book on early childhood transitions edited by Sharon Lynn Kagan from Teachers College, Columbia University due to be published in 2010.

For details on all of the PWI School Transitions Programs, [click here](#).

## The Soul of Education 10th Anniversary Celebration

2010 marks the 10th anniversary of the publication of Rachael Kessler's groundbreaking book [\*The Soul of Education: Helping Students Find Connection, Compassion, and Character at School\*](#). PassageWorks is launching an on-line celebration of the book that will include an invitation to share stories about the impact of this book on teachers around the country.

As part of the celebration, we want to hear your stories! Please visit our website and tell us how you have been inspired by *The Soul of Education* and how you have woven this approach into your work and life.

To learn more or to share your story, [click here](#).

## Updates on the Institute

- Laura Weaver is now the Associate Executive Director of PassageWorks Institute.
- PWI would like to thank Jennifer Walton for her three years of dedicated service on the PassageWorks Board of Directors.
- Welcome aboard to Zoe McCaffrey and Jamie Shindler who have been fulfilling critical administrative assistant roles in our office.
- Thank you to our Graduate Student Interns Marjorie Wyman and Alex Peterffy for all their service this year.

## A CASEL Pioneer: Mary Utne O'Brien (1952 - 2010)

Mary Utne O'Brien, Vice President for Strategic Initiatives at the Center for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL), passed away April 28, 2010. Mary was a key leader for the field of social and emotional learning. She will be deeply missed.

To learn more about Mary, her life, and her work, [click here to visit the CASEL website](#).

## Rachael Kessler Archive Project

Rachael Kessler was a prolific writer and speaker throughout her career. The archive project will gather all of her writings, keynotes, and audio and video footage into an archive where these materials can be accessed by researchers and educators. Additionally, we will seek a university library partner to create a physical archive of Rachael's works. We are currently seeking funding for this project.



## Conferences & Gatherings 2010

**Kalliopeia Gathering:** Mark Wilding attended, "Emergence," a four day gathering in March hosted by the Kalliopeia Foundation for 160 of its grantees. It was a truly remarkable gathering of organizations engaged in social action and transformation



Mark Wilding and Mark Gerzon at the Kalliopeia Gathering in March, 2010

exploring how they might connect and support each other's work. We also want to thank the Kalliopeia Foundation for the generous \$10,000 donation to the "Living Legacy Projects" in honor of Rachael.

**American Education Research Association (AERA)** Laura Weaver and Mark Wilding hosted a two hour workshop at the May AERA conference in Denver with Bob London from California State University.

**The 2010 Mind & Life Summer Research Institute** Mark Wilding been selected as a Senior Investigator for the Research Institute in June— The purpose of the Summer Research Institute is to advance collaborative research among developmental scientists, neuroscientists, and educational researchers and practitioners based on a process of inquiry, dialogue, and in some cases, collaboration. The theme for 2010 is: Human Development, Education and Contemplative Practice: Questions, Challenges and Opportunities.