Dear Members and Prospective Conference Attendees,

I'd like to personally encourage each of you to join us at the National Society for Experiential Education 46th national conference in St. Pete Beach, Florida on September 25-27, 2017. This year’s conference theme of *From Principles to Practice: Experiential Education Innovation in a Changing World* is sure to be engaging and relevant to common issues we face within our respective organizations.

When we return to the fundamentals in experiential education we find vision, hope, strategy, and effective practices for innovative student-focused initiatives in a changing world. Embedding high-impact teaching practices into our educational programs and providing students with concrete and authentic learning experiences in which they can reflect upon, conceptualize, and actively experiment with contemporary problems leads to innovative teaching and student transformations. This is an exciting educational agenda that takes on new relevance in our rapidly changing times.

In line with the conference theme, we will have one incredible keynote speaker, Dr. John Moravec, who will focus on how we can ensure the success of ourselves as individuals, communities, and the planet in a world driven by exponential accelerating technological and social change, globalization, and a push for more creative and context-driven innovations. The session will be interactive and will help NSEE members and attendees explore a framework to navigate a rapidly changing society, disentangling data, information, knowledge and innovation; and, plot pathways for maximizing creativity and innovation capital in experiential programs through agency and self-efficacy. Also during the conference, in a TEDx Talk-style format, we will host an Innovators’ Panel comprised of leaders in the field imagining three steps ahead and actively engaging students in ways other campuses may have not yet considered. Audience engagement will be a high priority during this portion of the conference.

Further, we have a full schedule of 40+ sessions that address the breadth of our work. New this year, at the same time as our 90-minute sessions, we will also host a round of three, 30-minute roundtables for members and conference attendees who want quick tips and insight revolving around the topics of experiential learning foundations, best practices, institutional implementation, technology/innovation, and faculty development.

There will be many opportunities for networking and learning about NSEE involvement throughout the conference. The NSEE Conference Planning Committee comprised of 14 NSEE members have been hard at work to help new members and returners actively engage with NSEE through planning dinners, creating points of connection with current NSEE Board members, and developing an interactive “Welcome to NSEE” session on Monday afternoon of the conference. Be on the lookout for further details about how to get connected to these experiences.

In a world undergoing real transformation, please join us during the 46th Annual Conference on the beach in sunny St. Pete Beach, Florida to meet and share experiences with educators, practitioners, and faculty who use experiential education in innovative ways and that advance the theory and practice of experiential education.

Sincerely,

Erica Ely  
2017 National Conference Chair

Paul Kwant  
2017 National Conference Co-Chair