



## Looking to the Future Patrick F. Bassett, NAIS President

Presentation to ASSIST Member Schools, Scholars, Friends, and Directors  
October 6, 2011

The ASSIST community was privileged to gain from the wisdom and nimble mindset of Pat Bassett at its October Board of Directors dinner in Connecticut. We can't do justice to his full presentation, but the informational nuggets that follow might spur your thinking and prompt you to be in touch. Over the years, ASSIST has transformed lives in school communities and for its Scholars. Given our mindset and mission, ASSIST is poised and looking forward to responding to the changing landscape Pat Bassett pictured. We always benefit from ideas on ways to grow and continue to serve. Bob Stanley, ASSIST President, welcomes your thoughts ([bob@assist-inc.org](mailto:bob@assist-inc.org)). They will help inform our strategic thinking!

### BASSETT PRESENTATION SUMMARY

- Paraphrasing a lead line in Mounds Park Academy marketing literature - *ASSIST provides the opportunity for Scholars to learn about the world as the world learns about its Scholars.*
- The world of education is transitioning from learning about the world to learning in the world.
- Thoughts about market demand, consumer and school trends include:
  - A marketplace becoming filled with school choices
  - Customers becoming increasingly choosy
  - Growth in on-line learning and home-schooling
  - Expansion in number of charter schools worldwide
  - Need for 'great teachers who blend high-tech and high touch'
  - Increasing cost of independent education
    - Tuition increased between 22% to 38% from 1990 and 2009 relative to median family income
  - Greater focus on global problem-solving and perspective
    - See NAIS 20/20 program ([www.nais.org](http://www.nais.org)) based on J.F. Rischard's book, *High Noon*
  - Dramatic increase in electronic connectivity
    - Average young person spends 10,000 hours on line (the same amount of time spent in school from grade 5 – 12)
    - More use of technology in school and college classrooms
  - Emphasis on leadership skills along with diverse and design thinking

***“What you do, not what you know, is the ultimate test of education.”*** (Pat Bassett)

### 10 DEMONSTRATIONS OF LEARNING

- 1) Be able to conduct a fluent conversation in a foreign language
- 2) Write a cogent and persuasive piece on a matter of public importance
- 3) Speak with passion and from memory a passage of one's own or from the culture's literature or history
- 4) Demonstrate a commitment to a more sustainable and global future with means that are scalable
- 5) Invent a machine or program a robot capable of performing a difficult physical task
- 6) Exercise leadership in an arena in which you have passion and expertise
- 7) Using statistics, assess if a statement by a public figure is demonstrably true
- 8) Assess media coverage of a global event from various cultural/national perspectives
- 9) Describe a breakthrough for a project-based team on which you participated and in which you contributed to overcoming a human-created obstacle
- 10) Produce or perform on stage or interpret a work of art