
Siena Presents at NAIS National Convention

Packed audience for discussion of teaching strategies

SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND, February 25, 2011– Facing a packed audience of 150 teachers and administrators at the National Association of Independent School (NAIS) annual convention, The Siena School and Dr. William Stixrud presented a joint session on how effective strategies for teaching students with learning differences can enhance learning for all students. Using examples drawn from his extensive experience at his neuropsychology practice in Silver Spring, MD, Dr. Stixrud discussed the research behind effective teaching strategies, including multisensory instruction, experiential learning and the emphasis of depth of learning over breadth. Clay Kaufman, co-Head of School at The Siena School, gave practical examples of strategies that are effective at The Siena School, a school for bright college-bound students with language-based learning differences.

“These strategies enhance learning for all students,” said Kaufman, for years a teacher at a mainstream progressive school. “Multisensory techniques such as using rhythm and music to aid memory are effective for students with or without learning disabilities. And field trips are often the most memorable learning any student undertakes.”

Stixrud argued that “less is more” when it comes to content, allowing students to dig deeper into material and build critical thinking, analysis and writing skills, which are the keys to success in college.

NAIS includes independent schools from around the country and around the world. The annual convention drew 4000 educators over three days, with presentations by education leaders and creative thinkers outside the field, such as Seth Goldman, the founder of Honest Tea.

About The Siena School

The Siena School is an outstanding new private school in Silver Spring, Maryland serving bright, college-bound students with language-based learning differences, such as



dyslexia. Siena's staff and board of advisors include distinguished national, state and local education leaders and professionals. The school was established in 2006 and currently serves students in grades 4-12. Siena's program is designed for students with mild to moderate learning needs who are experiencing a discrepancy between their academic achievement and intellectual abilities in one or more areas such as reading, writing, oral expression or math. Siena delivers an individualized educational program featuring small class sizes, research-based instructional methodologies, a highly trained staff and an educational environment specifically designed to meet the unique needs of our students. For further information, The Siena School can be contacted at (301) 592-0567 or on the web at www.thesienaschool.org.

William R. Stixrud, Ph.D., is a clinical neuropsychologist who has been in private practice since 1985. He is also a member of the Adjunct Faculty of the Children's National Medical Center, and he holds a faculty appointment as Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the George Washington School of Medicine. He has previously held an appointment at the Georgetown University Medical School, and he has served as a consultant to the Division of Neuropsychology at the National Institutes of Health.

For the past 20 years, Dr. Stixrud has been extensively involved in the training and supervision of psychologists and learning specialists. He is also a frequent lecturer on topics related to neuropsychological assessment, learning and executive disorders, brain development, brain-based learning, motivation, and the effects of stress and sleep deprivation on the brain. He is the author of a book, *Plain Talk About Early Education and Development*, and he has authored book chapters and/or articles on children with epilepsy, adolescent brain development, self-esteem, homework, and the effects of Transcendental Meditation on students with ADHD. Dr. Stixrud has been quoted often in publications including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Washingtonian*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Business Week*, *Barron's* and *Vogue*.