



CSG East | 61st Annual Meeting NEW HAMPSHIRE 2022

Conference Newsletter - August 15, 2022



Dean Kamen, founder, DEKA Research and Development, talked with attendees after speaking at the Executive Committee luncheon Sunday afternoon. *Photo by Mary Schwalm*

FIRST in Education: Robotics Competition Helps Get Kids into STEM Fields

From FIRST to ARMI, Dean Kamen, founder, DEKA Research and Development, has been focused on advancing care for human beings.

On Sunday, Kamen shared the history of his many innovations and asked legislators in attendance to help move along projects when they can do so.

One area that fits the bill – help to make sure students in every school district have an opportunity to participate in the FIRST Robotics Competition. Kamen convinced President George Bush in 1992 to recognize winners of this competition the same way they do sports like football, baseball, and basketball.

“The problem isn’t that we don’t have enough good teachers and good schools ... the problem we have in this country is we have so many distractions that are leading, particularly women and minorities, away from science and technology,” he said.

He believed putting the spotlight on that competition would inspire more students to get involved in the STEM fields.

He was right.

An independent study found that participants were 50 percent more likely to attend college and four times more likely to pursue technology and engineering majors in college.

The program started with 23 teams in 1992 and had grown to 81,000 teams last year. The growth has mandated change in the program. FIRST now has 22 regional events, and has attracted \$80 million in scholarship opportunities from 200 providers and 3,700 corporate sponsors.

The program has gone global and Kamen wants every school to provide students the opportunity.

“We should challenge every state that cares about kids and education to make FIRST a standardized sport,” Kamen said.

Meeting Reminders

Pick Up Your Badges

Conference badges are required at all Annual Meeting events! Pick up your meeting badge at registration at the DoubleTree. Registration is open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday and Tuesday in Assembly.

Meeting Location and Shuttle Van

Meeting sessions will be at the DoubleTree by Hilton at 700 Elm Street. A shuttle van will be provided for attendees staying at the Hilton Garden Inn at 101 Commercial Street. Shuttles will run between the two hotels from 6:30-11:30 a.m. and 4-10 p.m. Monday and Tuesday.

Don't Forget the App

We encourage you to download the meeting app, where you can find program information in a format made for your phone, and visit our attendee website to see the full agenda.

Off-site Policy Excursions

If you are attending the Agriculture and Rural Affairs off-site tour Tuesday, please meet at the front of the hotel to board the bus to Loudon, New Hampshire.

If you are attending the Education off-site tour to ARMI, please meet in Assembly, it is a 5–8-minute walk to the Millyards. Wear comfortable shoes. Elevators are available at the facility for those who need.

Stay Safe

CSG East advocates following current New Hampshire Department of Health COVID guidelines, and the current meeting venues' and hotels' rules for COVID mitigation.

Masking is strongly recommended indoors except when eating, drinking, or presenting and outdoors in groups when physical distancing is not possible. Special care should be taken by those at higher risk or those caring for young children or more vulnerable adults.

Manchester Moments



Members of the CSG East Executive Committee met for dinner Saturday night where they were welcomed by New Hampshire Senate President Chuck Morse and Sen. Sharon Carson, above. At left are attendees from New Brunswick.



The Annual Meeting Committee, including, MPP Jamie West of Ontario, left, and Connecticut Deputy Speaker Bob Godfrey, right, gathered Sunday to chart a way forward for CSG East.



The Strategic Planning Committee, including, Debi LaMantia of Ontario, above, and Roger Roy of Delaware, right, gathered Sunday.

At left, CSG National Chair Sen. Sam Hunt of Washington sat in on the Executive Committee meeting Sunday. Executive Committee member Reggie Parson and ELA president, left, and Delaware Rep. Paul Baumbach, right, joined the discussion.



Photos by Mary Schwalm

Equality Is the Outcome We Seek; Equity Is in the Process We Use

Dr. Kevin Ahmaad Jenkins, CEO of Konquered and a lecturer in the Department of Medical Ethics and Health Policy at the Perelman School of Medicine at Penn, shared a story of a young Black mother who almost died because she didn't get the care she needed.

She was not from an impoverished community; she was in middle management at Johnson & Johnson. Her doula raised concerns due to a headache and swelling. The staff ignored her.

That patient was his wife.

"I don't believe we have an equity problem. We have an empathy problem," he said.

Jenkins, who holds a PhD in sociology and has 110 credit hours in health services research, said racism is a barrier to people of color in seeking health care. During Sunday's Council on Communities of Color meeting, he related a story of speaking with a Fortune 100 company and a leader telling him it would be a tough room.

"The reason he said that was that everybody in his organization was tired of hearing about diversity, equity, and inclusion," Jenkins said.

He said there are plenty of statistics that illustrate the problems. "We don't need more new studies to tell us that we see an inequity," he said.

Tara Dowdell, founder and president of Tara Dowdell Group, said one of the biggest challenges in talking about ways to ensure equity is that those who are opposed to equity have worked to demonize the concept.

"Any time a person of color or woman achieves anything, the first line of attack from those in opposition to diversity and equity is 'this person is unqualified,'" she said. "We need to push back on this false narrative and outright lie that diversity equals unqualified."

Both Jenkins and Dowdell stressed there is a difference between equity and equality.

"With equality, you make sure people have access," said Dowdell. "Equity recognizes that people start in different places ... that there are historic gender and racial barriers."

For Jenkins, "equality is our outcome. We want everybody to have the chance to achieve the same outcome. Equity is in the process."



Dr. Kevin Ahmaad Jenkins, CEO of Konquered and a lecturer in the Department of Medical Ethics and Health Policy at the Perelman School of Medicine at Penn, above, and Tara Dowdell, founder and president of Tara Dowdell Group, below, discussed the importance of equity and equality in areas including health care and business. *Photos by Mary Schwalm.*



He stressed that legislators need to have conversations about equity and how they can help their states achieve that outcome.

"How can we solve something we can't talk about?" he asked.



Beth Loudy, center, executive director of the State Government Affairs Council, presented New Hampshire Sen. Sharon Carson, left, and Sen. Lou D'Allesandro, right, with the SGAC Award. *Photos by Mary Schwalm.*



New Hampshire Sen. Lou D'Allesandro was presented with the W. Paul White Award during Sunday's Executive Committee luncheon. He is pictured with Sen. Sharon Carson, left, New Hampshire House Speaker Sherman Packard, Paul White, and David Biette, director of CSG East.