

The Passy Press

Letter to the Editor

From: gerrit.keator@undisclosed.com

To: Nick Gardiner enpg@thepassypress.com

Date: September 10, 2014 2:45pm EST

Subject: Impressions on John MacMurray's Essay on US Education

Dear Sir,

Para. 1 -- for most of the 50 years we have not had a laser beam focus on stopping the deterioration of family stability and equity/inclusion in our Pre-K -12 continuum. The economics have not been balanced amongst grade levels and especially communities from inner cities to rural areas.

Para. 2 -- American History courses... look into the failings of the new AP course which was recently released.

Para. 4 -- His "mission statement" is right on. The ultimate challenge --- "all socio-economic classes"

Para. 5&6 -- Tricky balancing act between Common Core and each state having to treat its tenets as they see fit. In my view --- the less government the better!

Para. 8 -- Professional bar -- evaluation standards vary too much and the NEA, etc. unions hinder enforcement i.e. -- hiring's and firings. In the latter instance New York City has the infamous "rubber rooms" where failing teachers go to everyday and still remain on the payroll while sitting around doing nothing. Appalling!!

Para. 10 -- A recent effort was launched by NBC's Campbell Brown and lawyer David Boies called Partnership for Educational Justice. They might be able to dig into this educational challenge.

Para. 12 -- Good wrap up, but federal funding??? Who will articulate "best practices" and who will set the parameters and implementation of funding?

Gerrit Keator

Gerrit Keator, a graduate of Phillips Academy- Andover and Yale University, has been in education since 1962 at schools ranging from Honolulu, Hawaii to Beirut, Lebanon. He served as head of three schools for a total of 27 years.