

Sunday, February 21, 2016. Opening Session.

MS. BOSLAND: Welcome to Napa. We're going to get started in just a few minutes, if you could find your seats. Please join me. Actually, what you all are doing is just what this conference is for, so I hate to interrupt the discussions, but we do need to stay on somewhat of a schedule.

We have some very special things coming up here. So welcome to Napa. Whoo! We made it. Welcome to The Heads Network conference, 2016, *Innovation Uncorked: Changing the World One Idea at a Time*. A very, very simple thing to do; correct? By the time you leave here on Tuesday, I hope you have at least one way to do that.

I am Sue Bosland. It's an honor to serve as the president of The Heads Network. A huge, enormous thank-you to the conference committee. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce them right at the beginning of the conference, so please stand as I call your name. Travis Brownley, the chair, as well as Janet Durgin, Nanci Kauffman, Tekakwitha Pernambuco-Wise and Kim Wargo. And our executive director, Sissy Wade. They had a vision for this conference, and it is now coming to fruition. Congratulations. They have planned a meaningful, thought-provoking, and action-packed agenda, as well as providing a welcoming and comfortable venue and delicious meals throughout our three-day meeting.

The Heads Network has an important and inspiring mission, advancing girls' and women's leadership in independent schools. We honor our long history of motivating and supporting this leadership. You are all here as leaders in independent schools, and we take seriously the opportunities we have as an organization to continue to encourage and prioritize strong schools who make such a positive difference for their students, employees, alums, families, and broader communities, as you all do in this room.

Today I can't help mentioning, you know, day in and day out, we're reading things, *The New York Times* op-ed -- yes, this place really ranked when I could get my Sunday crossword puzzle -- and "It's Not Cute to be Scared" was one of the op-ed pieces today. Now, obviously, it had a lot to do with girls and helping them become competent and brave and courageous. However, what was interesting is how they tied it to women's leadership, and they said often if you're not encouraged to be brave when you're younger, when girls become women, this fear manifests as deference and timid decision-making. So hopefully we will all continue to inspire that courageousness in our students and in our fellow leaders.

So thank you for traveling to this conference, for sharing your wisdom, for engaging in the exciting conversations we will have today through Tuesday, and I would say conversations formally in sessions and informally, as you find, if this is your first time with this conference, around the dinner table, on field trips, and during coffee breaks. How many of you have had a lot of time to reflect in this past week? Okay. So there is not guilt. No guilt allowed. You are able to reflect, you're able to discuss. I always say just the time period when it seems least likely that you can get away is the time you should get away.

So sit back, relax, soak in the possibilities and opportunities this conference will offer over the next several days. Engage with new thoughts, share your ideas, stories, and expertise with the whole group, and each other. Reflect as questions, offer as feedback. We want to do this well. Collaborate, get to know one another, and most importantly, enjoy.

So it is now my honor and pleasure to introduce our executive director, Sissy Wade. Now, as Sissy makes her way to the podium, the Council has a bit of a surprise today, so you may hear about this and I want to share it with you. She completed her first year as our executive director and has done a fabulous job and, as we all know, is basically a rock star. If you know Sissy, she's just a bit of a sports fan. Just a little bit. So with our deepest gratitude for her service and expertise with The Heads Network this year, each of the Council members and the committee for the conference brought an article of swag or sports apparel from their schools and is she ready to take on whatever event she's going to be watching in the future.

So welcome to the podium. Thanks, Sissy.

MS. WADE: One and all, good afternoon. I'm delighted to have you in Napa. Napa provided us this glorious day and the days ahead, and most of all, time apart. Time apart from our schools and with one another.

Schooling can be a lonely business. You can be reaching out and not finding anyone there that understands. They're in this room. They're right here for you. So reach out, find a friend, so you can phone a friend as the days, weeks and years go by.

That is my wish for you. Enjoy this setting. Sit back and relax, and find those friends amongst your colleagues.

I want to also say a big "Hello" once again to Mary Seal. Mary enables us to enjoy, because she takes our notes. Every single word that's uttered -- well, most of them, I might add -- are recorded by Mary, so you can just relax and enjoy each session and each speaker. So thank you, Mary, for that.

I also want to have a big shout-out to our new school members. If you are representing one of our new school members, would you please stand? Please stand. I know you're here. Welcome to each of you. Thank you.

You will note in your program that we have their photos, so you can meet and greet them. But we wish you a warm welcome and many conferences to come.

I also want to announce and recognize our representatives on the international arena. From the Canadian Association of Independent Schools, Wilma Jamieson. Wilma, would you please rise? She's the head of school at Queen Margaret's School in Duncan, British Columbia.

And also from the UK, we have Caroline Jordan and her husband, Richard. Caroline, are you in the room? There we go. Thank you. Caroline is the headmistress at Headington School in Oxford, England, and is the president of the Girls' School Association.

So again, welcome to our international guests. We're delighted to have you.

And finally, our sponsors. They allow us to do many things for this conference and throughout the year. So let me introduce them to you.

Mills Uniform Company has been serving our country's finest schools for more than 88 years. Their uniform programs are a seamless reflection of your school's experience, and they make sure that every student is in uniform from the first day of school until the last, even if they outgrow them. And they deliver quality and service to parents that they will tell their friends about. Suzette Mills Foley and Bill O'Brien from the Mills Uniform Company. Please stand. Thank you.

Thank you. Established in 1990, SAGE Dining Services is the nation's leading provider of campus dining and upscale catering services. For 25 years SAGE has worked in partnership with independent schools and private colleges throughout North America who share their passion for great food, nutrition, and sustainability.

Their chefs tailor menus using fresh and locally grown ingredients. Francisco Paco Rodriguez, who is the president of SAGE, and Maurice Short, vice president for business development. Are they in the room, please? Welcome.

TADS. TADS provides integrated services for administrators and families from inquiry to transcript. Their robust online access and reporting enables clear communication so that administrators can focus on their differentiating core values -- how many times have you heard that word in the board room -- while TADS handles the transactions and all the details with their family. From TADS we have Martin and Beth Pryor. Martin and Beth? I have seen them. Well, they are around. You'll see them soon.

Caryn Pass. Caryn is a partner at the law firm of Venable, LLP, created one of the first independent school law practices in the country, committed to empowering independent schools and fostering their prosperity. She provides practical solution-based counseling and problem-solving -- now listen to this -- for more than 200 independent schools nationwide, helping schools navigate relationships with all those constituent groups by establishing policies, procedures, and strategies while limiting potential liability exposure. That's important to all of us. Caryn Pass from Venable, would you please stand? There she is.

I might add that Caryn is receiving a prestigious award from NBOA tomorrow, so she will be with us today and we congratulate her on that award. But if you want to make contact and connect with Caryn, please do so quickly.

Again, we are thrilled to have you. It's going to be an amazing several days. Enjoy our speakers, enjoy one another, enjoy this glorious setting called Napa. Welcome.