



## **Is your school ready to host a future SBSA conference? We are seeking 2014 and 2015 hosts!**

**The Small Boarding School Association** was founded in 1987 by a group of people who felt that small boarding schools needed their own gathering to address those issues unique to their type of school. The first conference was held at Hoosac School in Hoosick, NY. Attendees participated openly in a number of sessions, which focused on the benefits of small boarding schools, and ways in which their nurturing environment could effectively be marketed. Participants felt they could be candid about problems they faced in competing with schools which offered a plethora of academic and athletic options. The feeling of camaraderie and friendships, which evolved from this conference, has sustained itself and has become a tradition.

While the membership in the organization has grown since its founding, its central purpose remains essentially unchanged. SBSA continues to exist today to provide those who work in and with small boarding schools of various types an opportunity to share and to learn from one another. As such, **the annual conference is the centerpiece of the organization and is the primary reason most schools and consultants join SBSA.** Held each year in mid-March on the campus of a member school, the SBSA conference has developed a reputation as many people's favorite among all the conferences they attend each year. What makes this conference so attractive is its informality and its opportunities for sharing and collaborating. Attendees come prepared not to listen passively to a host of experts speak but to actively participate in discussions whose topics are generated by the attendees themselves. They don't have to find time between sessions to have meaningful conversations with their friends and colleagues; those conversations *are* the conference.

The SBSA Board of Directors helps to plan, promote and facilitate the conference along with the host school. The host school is provided with a generous stipend to cover conference costs.

### **SBSA conference benefits:**

- Put your small boarding school "on the map"!
- Welcome up to 50 consultants to your campus for 3 days
- Share information and network with nearly 140 other boarding school professionals

**If you are interested in submitting a proposal to host a future conference, please communicate with any board member listed on our website: [www.smallboardingschools.org](http://www.smallboardingschools.org)**