



Salisbury School's Peter Gilbert receives The Enrollment Management Association's Bretnall Award

Independent school admission professional receives honor for his contribution to the field.



Award winner Peter Gilbert (2nd from left) with Board Chair Kevin Plummer, presenter Chris Bartlett, and Executive Director Heather Hoerle.

September 16, 2016, Baltimore: Peter Gilbert, director of admissions at Salisbury School (CT), was named the 2016 recipient of the William B. Bretnall Award from The Enrollment Management Association at the organization's annual meeting in Baltimore.

The award, named for William B. Bretnall, a distinguished educator and the first program director at The Enrollment Management Association, is given each year to a leader and educator who has made significant contributions to the field of admission and enrollment. This prestigious national award was first presented in 1982.

The award was presented to Gilbert by his friend and colleague, Chris Bartlett, Director of Enrollment and Marketing at Proctor Academy (NH). Bartlett entertained the crowd with reminiscences of his and Gilbert's longstanding friendship, emphasizing, "Peter is both a consummate school professional and 'student first' school person. He is highly competitive, and while competitive means 'cutthroat' to some, he is one of the most collaborative competitors I know. He always speaks highly of other schools and programs, mentors younger admission people and personifies the values of our profession."

Heather Hoerle, executive director of The Enrollment Management Association, stated, "Peter exemplifies best practice and professionalism in our field. In his work he successfully combines the science of data and metrics with the time-honored art of admission."

Gilbert, a native of Illinois, is a career admission professional who has spent over 25 years in independent schools. He graduated from Dickinson College with a history degree before accepting a teaching position at The Rectory School (CT). There he was involved in many aspects of school life: working in admission, teaching history, and coaching basketball and lacrosse. While finishing his master's degree at the University of Virginia, he worked part-time at the Collegiate School (VA) as a history teacher and lacrosse coach. At Tilton School (NH), he was an admission associate, college counselor, and the head lacrosse coach. He has served at Salisbury School for nearly 20 years.

In addition to his work, Peter has written and given presentations at national conferences for such organizations as The Enrollment Management Association, National Association of Independent Schools, and Independent Educational Consultants Association on topics that include data-driven admission work and non-cognitive assessments in admission.