



NAAC NEWSLETTER

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President's Column

Nell Ingram, NAAC President

On the eve of the new school year, Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans and the Gulf Coast. Thousands of school children and teachers found themselves displaced to Houston and other Texas cities, including my hometown of Dallas. This has been a heart-wrenching time, but I am proud to report that alternative certification programs were uniquely positioned to help deal with the unexpected influx of students.

In Houston, more than 5,000 new students enrolled in district schools in the aftermath of the hurricane. The school district reopened two elementary schools specifically to serve children that had been displaced from New Orleans. Several alternative certification interns were placed in teaching positions in those schools, as well as middle schools serving older displaced students. In addition, Kathleen Bowen, of the Region 4 Education Service Center in Houston, reports that five Louisiana interns transferred into Region 4's alternative certification program, filling positions in Houston schools.

Here in Dallas, eight interns from New Orleans have transferred into our alternative certification program. To help them in the transition, the Dallas Independent School District waived their alt-cert fees. Our own Karen Ollendike, a NAAC member and director of Teach Greater New Orleans, relocated to Dallas during the storm and came by my office to help screen interns for the program.



Continued on page 3

NAAC SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The NAAC Board of Directors recently announced the selection of three scholarship winners for the 2006 annual conference. The scholarships are awarded to alternative certification interns in their first year of teaching or within one year of completing their program. They recognize outstanding interns selected from a national pool of applicants. Winners each receive a \$2,000 scholarship along with a one-year membership in NAAC, free registration to the 2006 conference and up to \$500 to cover travel costs.

The 2006 scholarship winners are La'Tasha Bassette, a middle school ESL teacher from Dallas, Texas, winner of the Haberman Foundation Scholarship; Kate Malinowski, a fifth grade teacher from Boston, Massachusetts, winner of the Bill Smith Scholarship; and Matt Morrisette, a high school biology teacher from Joliet, Illinois, winner of the NAAC scholarship.

NAAC received a record number of scholarship applications this year. The scholarship presentations have become a highlight of NAAC's annual conference, with scholarship winners offering inspiring remarks about their experiences in their classrooms and their alternative certification programs. The scholarships will be presented on Wednesday, March 29, during the conference's closing luncheon.

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NAAC NEWS EDITOR'S SECTION

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Please visit the NAAC website at
www.alternativecertification.org to find an
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more...

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President's message, continued from page 1

Back in Louisiana, where the destruction was most acute, NAAC members and their institutions responded quickly and courageously. Board member Rossana Boyd reports that Southeastern Louisiana University, located about 30 miles north of New Orleans, opened its facilities to house approximately 1,900 relief workers after the storm. Campus buildings were used to shelter and feed National Guardsmen, state and local police, and electric utility workers who came from around the country to help. When the university reopened, the College of Education and Human Development initiated a drive to collect desperately needed school supplies for the many displaced students in local schools where SELU interns and student teachers are working. As Dr. Boyd points out, "many students fled New Orleans with nothing. Some didn't even have shoes."

Katrina was the worst natural disaster ever visited upon this nation, and her impact on school systems has been devastating. On behalf of all of us at NAAC, I offer thanks to our members who are responding extraordinarily on the ground. And to the tens of thousands of students, parents, teachers and administrators who have been affected by the storm, please know that we stand with you, heart to heart, hand in hand.

Dr. Nell Ingram
President

How can you help?

To donate school supplies to children in Louisiana, contact the Dean's office, College of Education and Human Development, Southeastern Louisiana University, at 985-549-2217, or dallen@selu.edu. Students need pencils, crayons, markers, art supplies, notebooks, and the like. SELU students will deliver supplies directly to children who have relocated to area schools.

Sixteenth Annual Conference Recruiting, Training, Mentoring, and Retaining Alternatively Certified Educators

March 27 - March 29, 2006
Chicago City Centre

The NAAC 16th annual meeting will be held March 27-29, 2006 at the Chicago City Centre hotel, with pre-conference events taking place on March 26. Sessions will focus on the four strands emphasized in the theme: **recruiting, training, mentoring and retaining**. The meeting will feature plenary addresses, invited research presentations, more than 50 breakout sessions, table discussions, and networking events.

Special early-bird registration fees are available until December 31, 2005. For more information on the conference, contact Judy Corcillo, NAAC Executive Secretary, at 202-277-3600 or jcorcillo@yahoo.com.

NAAC ONLINE JOURNAL

Response to the NAAC Online Journal has been strong, and the journal is on schedule to begin publication in early 2006. According to Journal editor Rossana Boyd, "we were delighted by the positive response to our Call for Manuscripts. It indicates there is a real demand for this publication."

The Journal will be available on the NAAC website www.alternativecertification.org. It will serve as a forum for the exchange of information and ideas related to alternative certification. Researchers are invited to submit manuscripts on quantitative or qualitative research that has implications and applicability for practitioners and policy makers involved with alternative certification.

Submissions for the spring issue each year must be received by August 1; submissions for the fall issue must be received by February 1.

For more information, contact Dr. Rossana Boyd at rboyd@selu.edu.

SRI's National Study on Alternative Certification

A research team led by Daniel Humphrey, Associate Director, and Marjorie Wechsler, senior policy analyst, at SRI International's Center for Education Policy, has published initial findings from a three-year national study of alternative certification programs. The researchers examined seven alternative certification programs and explored who participates in these programs and what learning opportunities the programs provide. The study's initial findings were published in *Teachers College Record*, September 2, 2005.

The researchers found a great deal of variation between alternative certification programs, as well as participants' characteristics and their program experiences. They emphasize the importance of considering how each participants' background and career trajectory, as well as the school context in which he/she is teaching, can significantly impact the success of the alternative certification program.



Daniel C. Humphrey

The researchers suggest that many popular assumptions about alternative certification, both positive and negative, are not supported by data. They present findings that often contradict common perceptions.

The study explores questions such as:

- * Does alternative certification attract more mature individuals, more males, more minorities, or more career-changers into teaching?
- *How do alternative certification programs train teachers for the classroom?
- *Is alternative certification a faster route into the profession?
- *Is on-the-job training advantageous?

The findings provide useful insights into the complexity of alternative certification, and the clear need for more research to guide the creation of effective policies and programs.

For more information on the study, go to www.sri.com.

NAAC 2006 ANNUAL CONFERENCE: CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Proposal Deadline: October 28, 2005

The Call for Proposals for the 2006 annual conference, *Recruiting, Training, Mentoring and Retaining Alternatively Certified Educators*, is available at www.alternativecertification.org. **Conference proposals must be received electronically by October 28, 2005** at naacproposals@yahoo.com. The program committee will promptly review all proposals, and presenters will be notified of acceptance on or about December 1.

NAAC Membership Application

Name: _____

Title/Position: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Work Phone: _____

Home Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

Membership Category:

- Individual Membership -- \$50
- Intern/Student -- \$15

Federal ID #: 54-1822255

Submit form and check or purchase order to:
NAAC
PO Box 5750
Washington, DC 20016

For more information contact Judy Corcillo at 202-277-3600 or jcorcillo@yahoo.com

Board of Directors meet to plan conference and finalize strategic plan

The NAAC Board of Directors met in Chicago August 4-7, 2005, at the site of the 2006 conference, the Chicago City Centre Hotel.

The four-day meeting focused primarily on the planning for the 2006 annual conference (see related article on page 3). The Board met with local planning committee members, including Gary Ketterling, conference chair and associate professor at Benedictine University, John Zigmund and James Pelech, also of Benedictine University, and Cleo Aquino of the Chicago Public Schools.

During the meeting, the theme and session tracks were finalized, decisions were made regarding the preconference events, evening reception, and invited speakers, and the conference budget was approved. The Board voted to raise conference registration fees slightly, recognizing the need to balance member' concerns about keeping the fees low with the financial demands of maintaining a healthy organization. In addition, dates and locations for future NAAC conferences were discussed.

The Board also discussed the process for upcoming elections. A nominating committee consisting of representatives from each region will be appointed. NAAC's regional representatives will identify members to serve on the nominating committee no later than December 1, 2005.

In a related meeting held before the full board meeting started, the 2006 conference scholarship winners were selected (see article on page 1). Scholarships will be awarded during the 2006 conference closing luncheon.

On the last day of the meetings, the Board devoted its time to the NAAC Strategic Plan. The strategic planning process was begun with the help of consultant Linda Hall in December 2004, to help the organization plan for its future growth and success. Working in small committees and as a full group, the board spent the day developing the action steps needed to fulfill the priorities in the strategic plan. The Strategic Plan will be finalized at the next Board meeting.

State Affiliate News

The Louisiana Association for Alternative Certification (LAAC) is in its second year of operation. The Executive Board elected for the first year is President Bill Neal, Southeastern Louisiana University; President Elect Glenda Holland, University of Louisiana at Monroe; Treasurer Karen Ollendike, University of New Orleans; and Secretary Rossana Boyd, Southeastern Louisiana University. The LAAC had planned to hold their first annual conference at the University of New Orleans on November 12, 2005, but the conference was cancelled due to hurricane Katrina. Plans are to reschedule the conference in Spring 2006, however at the time of this writing, a venue and date have not been chosen.

The Texas Alternative Certification Association (TACA), will hold its annual winter retreat, January 23-24, 2006 in Austin. For details, contact president Susan Loe Dennis at sloe@mail.wtamu.edu.

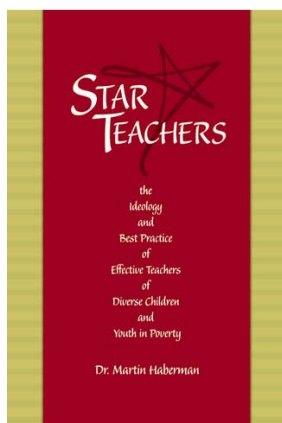
The California Association for Alternative Certification (CAAC) will participate in California's annual meeting of alternative certification projects on November 8-10, 2005. More than 120 intern directors are expected to attend. The meeting is being organized by Michael McKibbin, of the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing and immediate past president of the NAAC Board of Directors. For more information, contact mmckibbin@ctc.ca.gov.

**Mark your calendar for the
2006 NAAC Annual Conference**

**Recruiting, Training,
Mentoring and Retaining
Diverse and Highly Qualified
Educators**

**March 27-29, 2006
Chicago City Centre Hotel
Chicago, IL**

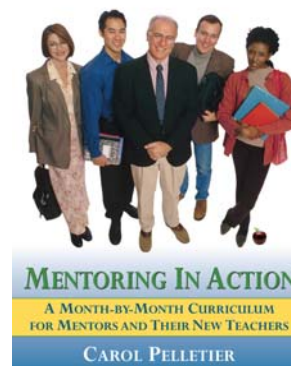
NEW RESOURCES



The Haberman Educational Foundation recently published a new book by Dr. Martin Haberman, *Star Teachers: The Ideology and Best Practice of Effective Teachers of Diverse Children and Youth in Poverty*.

Based on Haberman's four decades of research on new teachers, this book highlights the special characteristics that make "star teachers" so unique and valuable. The book is available through the Haberman Foundation website at www.altcert.org

Mentoring In Action: A Month-by-Month Curriculum for Mentors and Their New Teachers, by Carol Pelletier, was published this summer by Allyn & Bacon. This one-of-a-kind resource walks new teachers and their mentors through a full year of exercises addressing everything from lesson planning to behavior management. It includes numerous forms and practical tips for creating effective mentoring meetings, and outlines how to identify and discuss difficult issues as mentors and new teachers work together. *Mentoring in Action* is available at www.ablongman.com/catalog (ISBN #0205438989)



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